

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN WALES TO ORDAIN WOMEN

October 12, 1996 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) -

In September the Anglican Church in Wales voted to allow the ordination of women to the priesthood. According to the Episcopal News Service, September 26, 1996, almost one-half of the 37 independent provinces of the "Anglican Communion" now ordain women. This includes Anglicanism in England, America, Canada, Australia, Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico, Hong Kong, Kenya, Uganda, and Southern Africa.

The first Anglican female priest was ordained in the diocese of Hong Kong in 1944 in the emergency conditions created by World War II. The next Anglican female ordination was also in Hong Kong, in 1971 (Ecumenical Press Service, Nov. 25-30, 1984).

Wales was the last Anglican denomination in the British Isles to bar women from the priesthood. Ireland had begun ordaining women in 1990. The Church of England began ordaining women in March 1994, and by the end of 1995, had ordained 1,500 women to the priesthood. The Scottish Episcopal Church began admitting women to the priesthood in June 1994.

The Episcopal Church in America, which approved women's ordination in 1976, has roughly 1,070 female priests. The Episcopalians ordained the first Anglican female bishop in 1989.

The Anglican Church in Australia began ordaining females in November 1992. By Christmas of that year roughly 60 Australian women had already been ordained.

The ordination of women to lead the churches is rebellion against the Word of God --

"But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (1 Timothy 2:12-14).

Words could not be plainer. I praise the Lord that there are many churches in the world that continue to honor God's Word and to obey it in spite of the fraudulent modernistic cry that such things are antiquated and mean-spirited.

As a matter of fact, there is no special PRIESTHOOD ordained for the New Testament church, whether male or female. The Bible does not say that the Apostles were priests. The only priesthood that we read about in the New Testament epistles is the high priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 3:1; 5:10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1; 9:11; 10:21), and the general priesthood of the

believers (1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 1:5,6). The Levitical priesthood of the Old Testament was a picture of Christ. This is one of the themes of the book of Hebrews. With the coming of Christ we no longer need the Old Testament figures.

"By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: BUT THIS MAN, BECAUSE HE CONTINUETH EVER, HATH AN UNCHANGEABLE PRIESTHOOD. WHEREFORE HE IS ABLE ALSO TO SAVE THEM TO THE UTTERMOST THAT COME UNTO GOD BY HIM, SEEING HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore" (Hebrews 7:22-28).